

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 MC-02 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 ACDA-05 IGA-01

COME-00 /077 R

DRAFTED BY DOD/OASD/ISA:MR. G. BADER

APPROVED BY NEA/AFN :MWILEY

NEA/AFN:LRMURRAY

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R 020110Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155919

FOR CHUSLOT

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA

REF: TUNIS 3880

1. AMBASSADOR HEDDA CALLED ON DASD NOYES ON 26 JUNE TO OBTAIN LATEST USG THINKING ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUING GRANT MATERIEL PROGRAM IN FY 76.

2. HEDDA WAS TOLD THAT BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET REVIEW PROCESS IT IS UNLIKELY WE WILL BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY FIRM FMS CREDIT FIGURE OR POSSIBILITY OF GRANT MATERIEL AID FOR MANY MONTHS. THEREFORE, GOT SHOULD USE TENTATIVE PLANNING FIGURES AS PRESENTED BY DEPSECDEF TO PRIMIN. WE STILL ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF 15 MILLION DOLLARS FMS CREDIT AND .6 MILLION DOLLARS GRANT. ALTHOUGH POSSIBILITY GRANT MATERIEL PROGRAM COULD NOT BE RULED OUT
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COMPLETELY, EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL GIVEN CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE.

WE WOULD, OF COURSE, KEEP QUESTION UNDER REVIEW.

3. DOD REP SUGGESTED TO HEDDA THAT NEXT STEP IS NOW FOR GOT TO REVIEW ITS MILITARY PRIORITIES IN CONTEXT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE TO GOT FROM ITS OWN RESOURCES AND FRIENDS. GOT CANNOT OBVIOUSLY AFFORD EVERYTHING AT ONCE. TRADE-OFFS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE. FOR EXAMPLE, GOT WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER ASPIRATION FOR HAWK SYSTEM IS JUDICIOUS USE OF LIMITED FUNDS, GIVEN HIGH COST AND TECHNICAL DEMAND ON LIMITED MAN-POWER POOL AND LIKELY NEED TO MAINTAIN CONTRACTOR SUPPORT FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD. ONE COULD ARGUE THAT LIMITED CASH RESOURCES COULD BE BETTER SPENT FOR LESS EXPENSIVE AND SOPHISTICATED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, SUCH AS CHAPARRAL, AND WHICH, ALTHOUGH NOT DESIGNED FOR DEFENSE AGAINST HIGH FLYING AIRCRAFT, WOULD PROVIDE MOBILE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM BETTER SUITED TO TUNISIAN NEEDS.

4. HEDDA SAID GOT WOULD BEGIN PRIORITY REVIEW AND CONSULT WITH EMBASSY IN NEAR FUTURE. INGERSOLL

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